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MONTANA'S MUSEUM GREAT PLACE FOR SUMMER DESTINATION

The Montana Historical Society has four new exhibits ready for the summer tourist season that make a trip to the state Capitol well worth the time – and the price of gasoline!

The new exhibits take you into the life and rich culture of Native American society 200 years ago, sets you chugging with the power of Montana's railroads, wets your appetite with foods from the past, and takes your breath away with images of what became Yellowstone National Park taken in 1871.

Combined with visits to the nearby Original Governor's Mansion and the fully restored State Capitol Building with Society provided guided tours, it allows visitors a chance to feel the spirit of what it is to be a Montanan.

Montana's Museum, which is just across the street east of the Capitol in Helena, also features the Mackay Gallery of Charlie Russell Art and the "Montana Homeland" exhibit that tells the story of this special place over the past 11,000 years. These permanent exhibits are constantly refreshed with new objects.

"We pride ourselves as well as dedicate ourselves to telling the story of all of Montana," Society Director Richard Sims said. "With all of our new and updated exhibits, this summer is the perfect time for Montanans to take the time to celebrate their heritage."

The new exhibits are "Neither Empty Nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark," "On Track: The Railroad Photographs of Warren McGee," "Montana

by Food: At Taste of the Past,” and “Let Wonderland Tell Its Story: The 1871 Alberttypes of William Henry Jackson.”

The “Neither Empty” exhibit features major murals and other artworks, many of which were done by Native American artists, as well as “kid friendly” adventures like a tunnel that youngsters – and brave adults -- can go into to see what the inside of a wolf’s den looks like.

The “On Track” exhibit features a world-renowned collection of locomotive and other photographs as well as railroad artifacts including the panel of a locomotive that visitors can sit at and test the controls, that show the power of trains over the years.

“Let Wonderland” allows museum goers to explore the land that became Yellowstone Park through the eyes of the man who took the photos that convinced Congress to create it as the world’s first national park.

“Montana by Food” uses photographs and artifacts to show how foods have been gathered, processed and served to generations of hungry Montanans.

The Last Chance Tour Train just outside of Montana’s Museum allows people to take an open-air tour of the Capitol City’s mansion district and other historic places.

“We encourage people to plan their trips to Montana’s Museum so that they can visit other local museums and historic places across Montana as well,” Sims said.

For more information on more activities happening at the Society, log on to www.montanahistoricalsociety.org or call 406-444-2694.